

GENERAL ORDERS, }

No. 188.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, June 24, 1863.

I..Before a General Court Martial, which convened at Suffolk, Virginia, April 4, 1863, pursuant to General Orders, No. 16, dated March 18, 1863: Special Orders, No. 79, dated March 23, 1863; and No. 85, dated March 31, 1863, Headquarters, Suffolk, Virginia, and of which Colonel D. W. WARDROP, 99th New York Volunteers, is President, was arraigned and tried—

Lieutenant Colonel *George Stetzel*, 11th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry.

CHARGE I.—“Violation of the 6th Article of War.”

*Specification*—“In this; that Lieutenant Colonel *George Stetzel*, of the 11th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, did, in presence of most of the officers of the 11th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, ‘behave himself with contempt and disrespect’ toward his Commanding Officer, Colonel Samuel P. Spear, (when he, the said Colonel Spear, was in the performance of his duty, in the Adjutant’s Office of his Regiment,) by saying to Colonel Spear, ‘The day will come when I will be even with you, God damn you,’ or words to that effect. This at Camp Suffolk, Virginia, on the morning of April 1, 1863.”

CHARGE II.—“Violation of the 9th Article of War.”

*Specification*—“In this; that Lieutenant Colonel *George Stetzel*, of the 11th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, did ‘disobey the lawful command of his superior officer,’ Colonel Samuel P. Spear, when in the execution of his office; and when Colonel Spear ordered him, Lieutenant Colonel *George Stetzel*, in arrest to his quarters, he, Lieutenant Colonel *Stetzel*, did reply, in a loud, boisterous, and menacing manner, ‘I wont go, sir;’ ‘I’ll see you dam’d first, sir;’ ‘I’ll have my rights, sir;’ ‘I’ll hang first, sir;’ or words to that effect. This in the Adjutant’s Office of the 11th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, at Camp Suffolk, Virginia, on the morning of the 1st of April, 1863.”

CHARGE III.—“Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.”

*Specification*—“In this; that Lieutenant Colonel *George Stetzel*, of the 11th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, did use to Colonel Samuel P. Spear, his superior and Commanding Officer, the following language, to wit: ‘I pulled you out of the mud, sir; the day will come when I’ll get even with you yet, God damn you;’ and raising his clenched fist, did say, ‘Do your dam’dest, sir; I wont go an inch for you, God damn you;’ or words to that effect. All this in the Adjutant’s Office of the 11th Pennsylvania Cavalry, in presence of many officers, and while Colonel Samuel P. Spear was in the execution of his office, at Camp Suffolk, Virginia, on the morning of April 1, 1863.”

To which charges and specifications the accused, Lieutenant Colonel *George Stetzel*, 11th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, pleaded “Guilty.”

#### FINDING.

The Court, having maturely considered the evidence adduced, finds the accused, Lieutenant Colonel *George Stetzel*, 11th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, as follows:

#### CHARGE I.

Of the *Specification*, “Guilty.”

Of the CHARGE, “Guilty.”

#### CHARGE II.

Of the *Specification*, “Guilty.”

Of the CHARGE, “Guilty.”

#### CHARGE III.

Of the *Specification*, “Guilty.”

Of the CHARGE, “Guilty.”

#### SENTENCE.

And the Court does therefore sentence him, Lieutenant Colonel *George Stetzel*, 11th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, “*That he be dismissed the service of the United States.*”

II..The proceedings in the foregoing case have been approved by the proper commanders, and forwarded for the action of the President of the United States, with the recommendation that the sentence of dismissal be mitigated to suspension of rank and pay for two months. The sentence awarded Lieutenant Colonel *George Stetzel*, 11th Pennsylvania Volunteers, is accordingly mitigated "*to suspension from rank and pay for two months from the 18th day of June, 1863.*"

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*